

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Kindly replace the claims with the following:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of recognizing a speech utterance (s) available in spelled form, comprising:

a first processing stage in which a corresponding letter sequence (r) is estimated by means of a letter speech recognition unit (2) based on hidden Markov Models[.]; and [including]

a second processing stage (3) in which the estimated result (r) produced by the first processing stage utilizing a statistical letter sequence model (4) and a statistical model (5) for the speech recognition unit (2) is post-processed, [while the] wherein a dynamic programming method is used during the post-processing,[ characterized in that the] wherein a grid structure on which the dynamic programming is based and whose node points are provided for the assignment to accumulated probability values, is converted into a tree structure and [in that the] an A\* algorithm is used for finding an optimum tree path.

2. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein sub-optimum tree paths corresponding to N best estimates are determined for a speech utterance input with  $N > 1$ .

3. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein during the search for an optimum tree path those tree paths that [already] at the beginning of the search have a small probability are searched [compared to other tree paths are preferably no longer followed].

4. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in [one of] claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the first processing stage is executed by means of a first IC and [a] the second processing stage is executed by means of a second IC.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of system control by means of speech signals (w,s) [in which] comprising the steps of:

inputting a whole word (w) serving as a control signal [is input] and at least part of this word is input in spelled form (s),

recognizing the whole word (w) that is input using word speech  
recognition (7) [is used for recognizing the whole word (w) that is input,] and letter  
speech recognition (1) [more particularly as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 4 is used]  
for recognizing the spelled part (s) [that is input of the whole word (w),] the letter speech  
recognition comprising:

a first processing stage in which a corresponding letter sequence (r) is  
estimated by means of a letter speech recognition unit (2) based on hidden Markov  
Models[.]; and

a second processing stage (3) in which the estimated result (r) produced  
by the first processing stage utilizing a statistical letter sequence model (4) and a  
statistical model (5) for the speech recognition unit (2) is post-processed, wherein a  
dynamic programming method is used during the post-processing, wherein a grid  
structure on which the dynamic programming is based and whose node points are  
provided for the assignment to accumulated probability values, is converted into a tree  
structure and an A\* algorithm is used for finding an optimum tree path; and

restricting the recognition result (s) of the letter speech recognition (1)  
with a vocabulary assigned to the word speech recognition (7) [is restricted by the  
recognition result (s) of the letter speech recognition (1)].

6 (Currently Amended) A speech-controlled [electric device, more particularly, a]  
navigation system [for motorcars, comprising components (1,7, 8) for implementing a  
method as claimed in one of the claim 5] comprising:

first and second processing units for executing code for:

receiving a whole word (w) serving as a control signal and at least  
part of this word is received in spelled form (s);

recognizing the whole word (w) using word speech recognition,

recognizing the spelled part (s) using letter speech recognition (1)

and

restricting the recognition results of the letter speech recognition  
(1) to a vocabulary assigned to the word speech recognition (7).